

Message Text

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63

ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02

INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 OMB-01 EB-07 TRSE-00 COME-00 CIEP-01 AID-05

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R 282127Z APR 75

FM AMCONSUL BELIZE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4043

INFO AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA

AMEMBASSY KINGSTON

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MEXICO

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR BH

SUBJECT: UK-GUATEMALA TALKS ON BELIZE

1. FOLLOWING OFFICIAL RELEASE ON UK-GUATEMALA TALKS COVERED BY
"BELIZE TIMES" (PREMIER PRICE'S NEWSPAPER) OF 27 APRIL:

QUOTE

THE EXPLORATORY TALKS BETWEEN THE UNITED KINGDOM AND GUATEMALA
CONCERNING THE ANGLO-GUATEMALAN DISPUTE TOOK PLACE IN NEW
ORLEANS ON APRIL 21. HIS EXCELLENCY THE AMBASSADOR HONORABLE
V. H. COURTENAY WAS PRESENT AT THESE TALKS.

THE TALKS WERE ONLY EXPLORATORY, AND THEREFORE NO AGREEMENT
WAS REACHED ON ANY PROPOSAL OR SETTLEMENT.

THE DISCUSSIONS AT THIS STAGE WERE GENERAL AND INCLUDED THE
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DEFINITION OF PRINCIPLES REGARDING THE INDEPENDENCE OF BELIZE

AND GUATEMALA'S TERRITORIAL CLAIM. OTHER SUBJECTS DISCUSSED INCLUDED REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT, SEA PASSAGE, LAND OUTLETS, ECONOMIC COOPERATION, TRADE RELATIONS, TOURIST DEVELOPMENT, COMMUNICATIONS AND TRANSPORTATION.

HIS EXCELLENCY THE AMBASSADOR TO THE CARIBBEAN COMMUNITY RE-
STATED BELIZE'S POSITION ON INDEPENDENCE AND TERRITORIAL
INTEGRITY.

GOVERNMENT REGARDS THIS ISSUE OF SUCH IMPORTANCE THAT IT
CONTINUES TO PURSUE THE AIM OF REMOVING THE QUESTION FROM PARTY
POLITICS. GOVERNMENT HAS THEREFORE, THROUGH AMBASSADOR COURTE-
NAY BEEN TRYING FOR SOME TIME TO GET THE LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION
TO AGREE ON A MACHINERY WHEREBY GOVERNMENT AND THE OPPOSITION
WILL HAVE AN OPPORTUNITY TO ARRIVE AT A UNIFIED NATIONAL POSITION
FOR BELIZE.

GOVERNMENT INVITES THE LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION TO PURSUE THESE
DISCUSSIONS WITH THE AMBASSADOR SO THAT BELIZE CAN MAINTAIN A
NATIONAL POSITION AT THESE TALKS ON THE ANGLO-Guatemalan DISPUTE.

UNQUOTE

2. COMMENT: AS FINAL TWO PARAGRAPHS INDICATE, PREMIER PRICE IS
TRYING TO HANDLE OPPOSITION DEMANDS FOR PARTICIPATION IN TALKS
BY SUGGESTING OPPOSITION LEADER DISCUSS MATTER WITH AMBASSADOR
COURTENAY. THAT PRICE FOUND IT NECESSARY AGAIN TO ADDRESS HIM-
SELF TO OPPOSITION DEMANDS MAY INDICATE SOME PROGRESS WAS MADE
IN NEW ORLEANS.

3. ACTING GOVERNOR FONSECA INTIMATED AS MUCH TO ME DURING COURSE
OF A DINNER AT SIR HARRISON COURTENAY'S HOUSE LAST FRIDAY, BUT
THERE WAS NO OCCASION TO DISCUSS MATTER FURTHER.

4. SEVERAL WEEKS AGO I WAS TOLD BY A VISITING AUSTRALIAN OF-
FICIAL WHO HAD CALLED ON LOCAL OFFICIALS THAT PRICE WAS STUDY-
ING HOW BEST TO USE FORUM OFFERED BY MEETING OF COMMONWEALTH
HEADS OF GOVERNMENT OPENING IN KINGSTON, JAMAICA APRIL 29, TO
ADVANCE THE CAUSE OF BELIZEAN INDEPENDENCE. I HAVE HEARD
NOTHING MORE ON THIS, BUT IT WOULD BE UNCHARACTERISTIC OF PRICE
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NOT TO BE COOKING UP SOMETHING FOR USE AT COMMONWEALTH MEETING.
GAWF

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